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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7319  
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE IMMEDIATE 4035  
RUEHBD/AMCONSUL PERTH IMMEDIATE 2436  
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY IMMEDIATE 2069  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0705  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0494

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/05/2017

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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA TO NEARLY DOUBLE MILITARY FORCES IN  
AFGHANISTAN

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Daniel A. Clune for reasons 1.4  
(b)(d).

11. (S/NF) Stephanie Foster, First Assistant Secretary for International Policy, Australian Department of Defense, advised DCM April 5 that the Government of Australia had approved a planned deployment of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel to Oruzgan Province in Afghanistan that would nearly double ADF strength, from the current level of about 500 to almost 1,000. The GOA does not plan to publicly announce the new deployment until April 10, and Foster asked that we not publicly mention the decision.

12. (S/NF) The plans call for the redeployment within the next two weeks of a Special Operations Task Group comprising Special Air Service Regiment and other commandos that will operate under ISAF command in Oruzgan Province, the deployment early next year of two Chinook C-47 helicopters with 95 support personnel, and the likely deployment of a Mobile Control and Reporting Unit (MCRU) in July to take over from a U.S. radar installation. (The deployment of the MCRU is pending further confirmation.) The ADF numbers in these three units, totalling about 600, would be in addition to a company of 120 personnel sent to augment the Australian Reconstruction Task Force component of the Dutch-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Oruzgan.

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